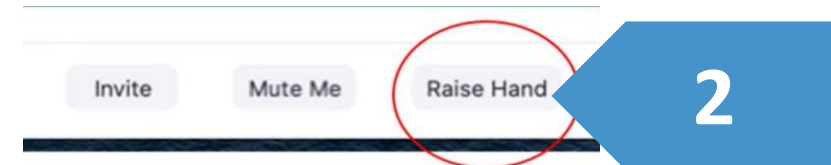
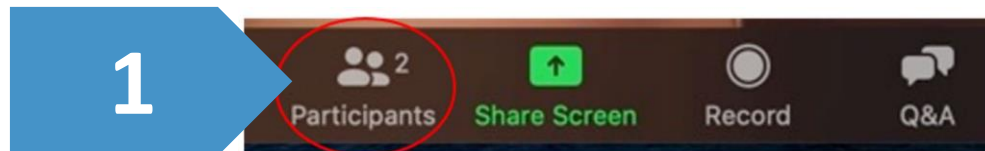


Committee Member Instructions

- Committee members may speak and show webcam video
 - Use "Raise Hand" button to help manage discussion
 - *9 to Raise Hand by phone
- Please stay muted unless speaking
 - *6 to mute/unmute by phone



City of Cambridge
Community Development Department

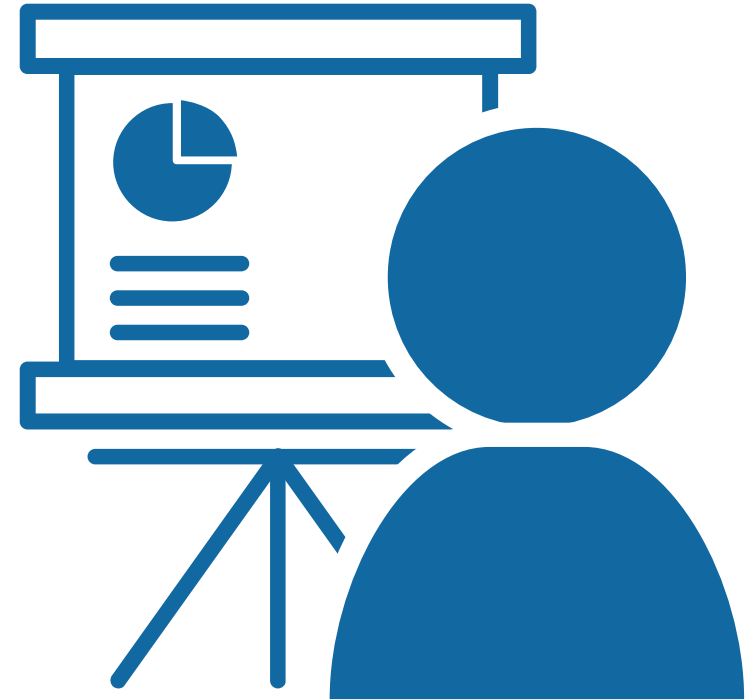
Pedestrian Committee Meeting

February 25, 2021



Meeting Agenda

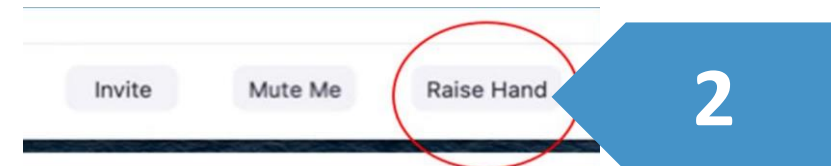
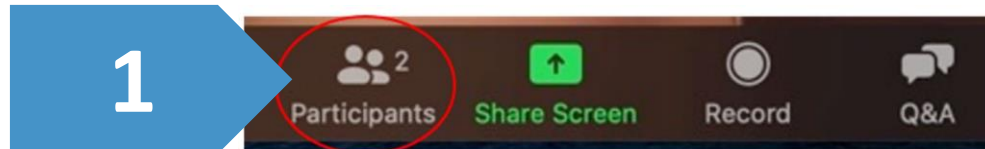
1. Zoom meeting protocols, minutes
2. Palmer Street
3. Public Comment
4. City Updates
5. Development Project Updates
6. Committee Elections
7. Committee Work
8. Public Comment
9. Other Announcements



Minute taker: Robin Bonner

Committee Member Instructions

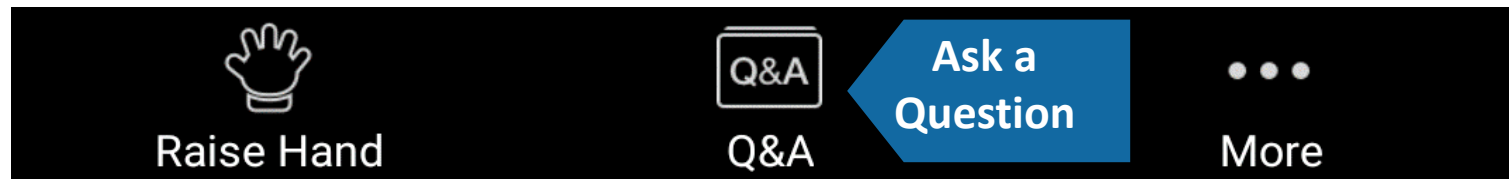
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Public Comment Instructions

- Members of the public are muted and cannot show webcam video
- Public can write questions or ask for assistance in Q&A window at any time
 - Questions may be submitted at any time and will be addressed as time allows, during discussion/comment periods
- During the Public Comment period, use the "Raise Hand" button to signal you have a question/comment. A staff member will then enable you to unmute yourself.
 - *9 to Raise Hand by phone
 - *6 to Mute/Unmute by phone
- Please be respectful! Participants will be removed for inappropriate behavior

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Zoom Screen





Minutes



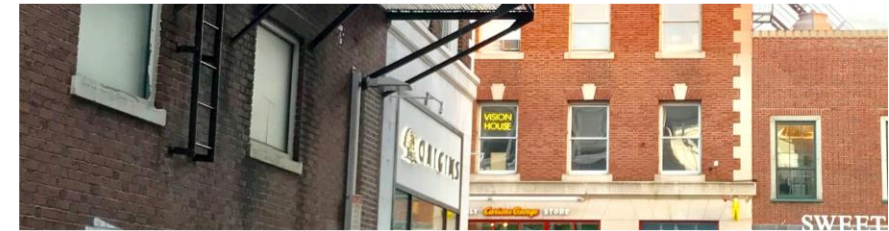
Palmer Street

Daniel Wolf, Community Development Dept.

City of Cambridge
Community Development Department

Enhancing Palmer Street

February 18, 2021





How can we make Palmer Street more enjoyable?



Agenda

- Background
- Existing Conditions and Analysis
- Precedent Images
- Discussion: Goals for Palmer Street

Background

- City Council: opportunity to make Palmer Street more active and inviting
- \$70,000 from Harvard Square Improvement Fund is available for enhancing the pedestrian experience in Harvard Square.
- Feedback from community will inform design approach.

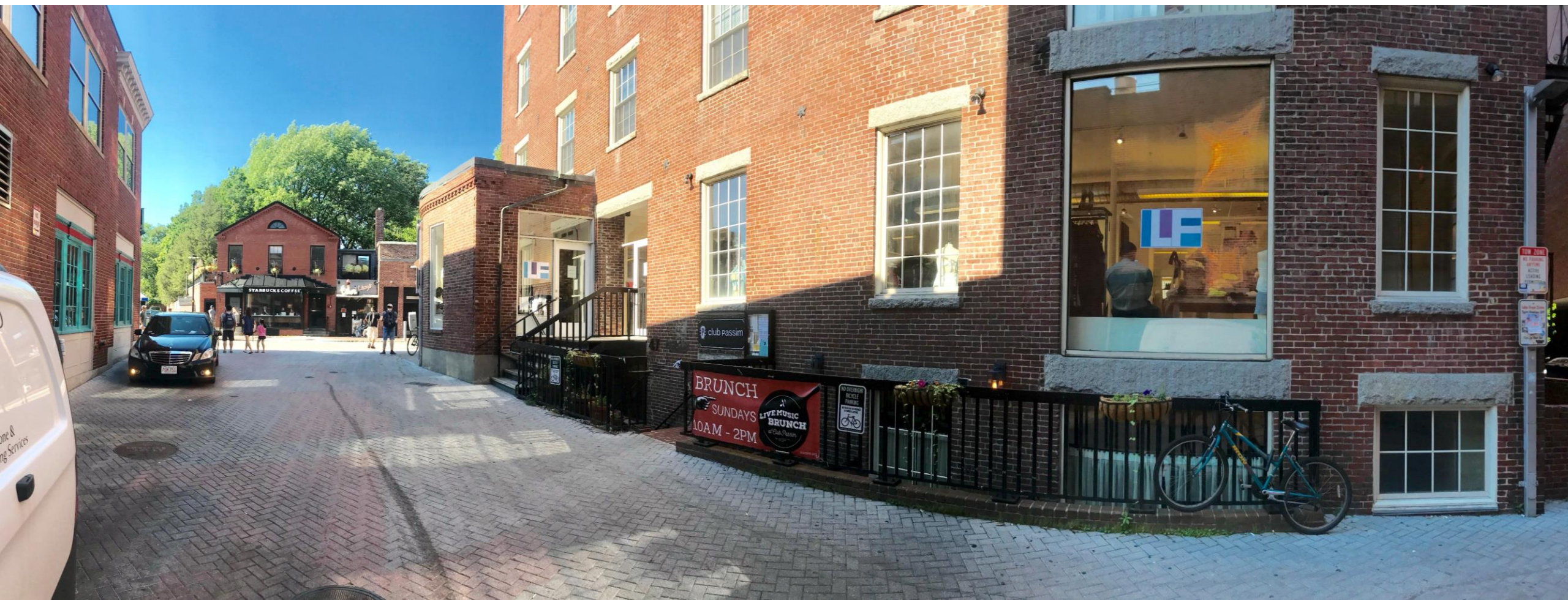




Existing Conditions









Strengths



Programming



Light sculpture



Lit block seating

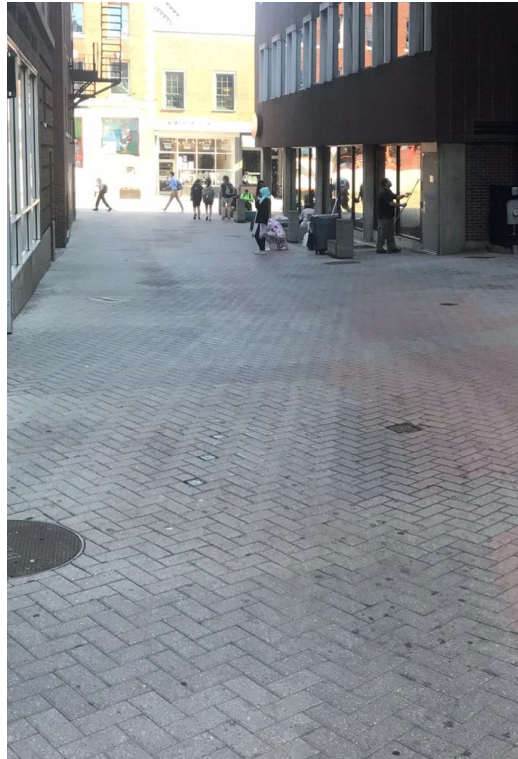


Wing mural

Challenges



Inactive facades



Drab palette



Sharing space with vehicles



Limited sunlight

Opportunities



Tables and chairs



Programming



Aesthetic
enhancements



Interactive art and
exchange of ideas

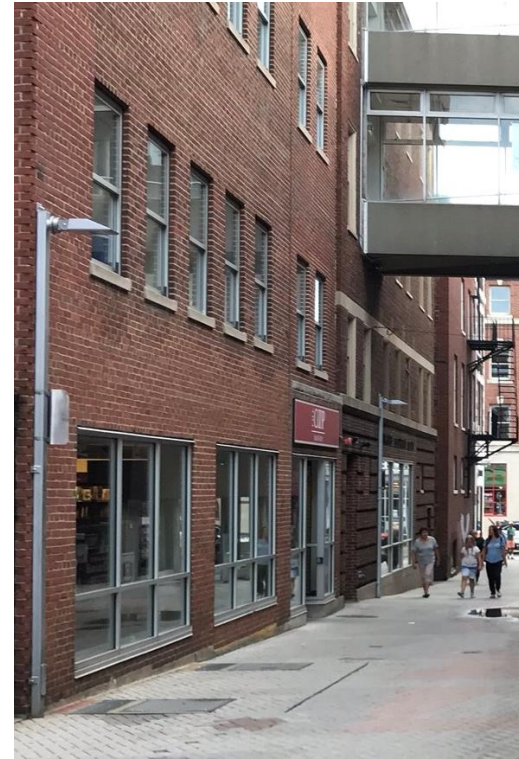
Constraints



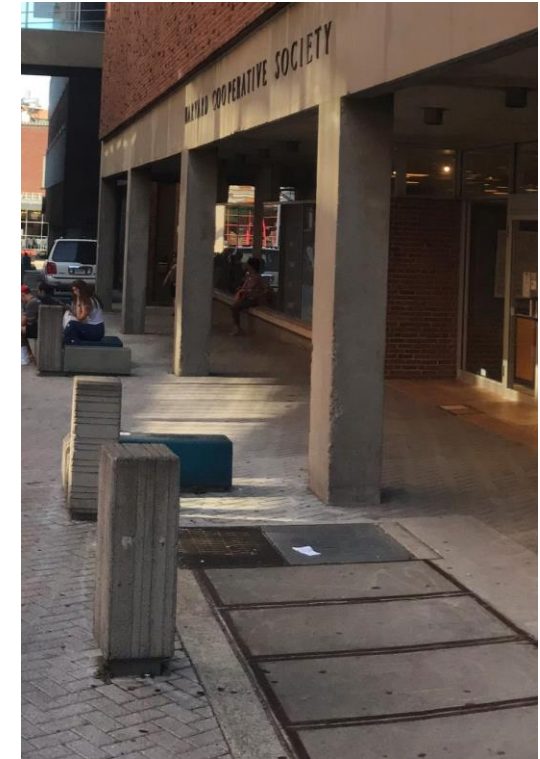
Delivery periods



Possible operational demands



Abutter approvals



Upcoming construction



Possibilities for Palmer Street



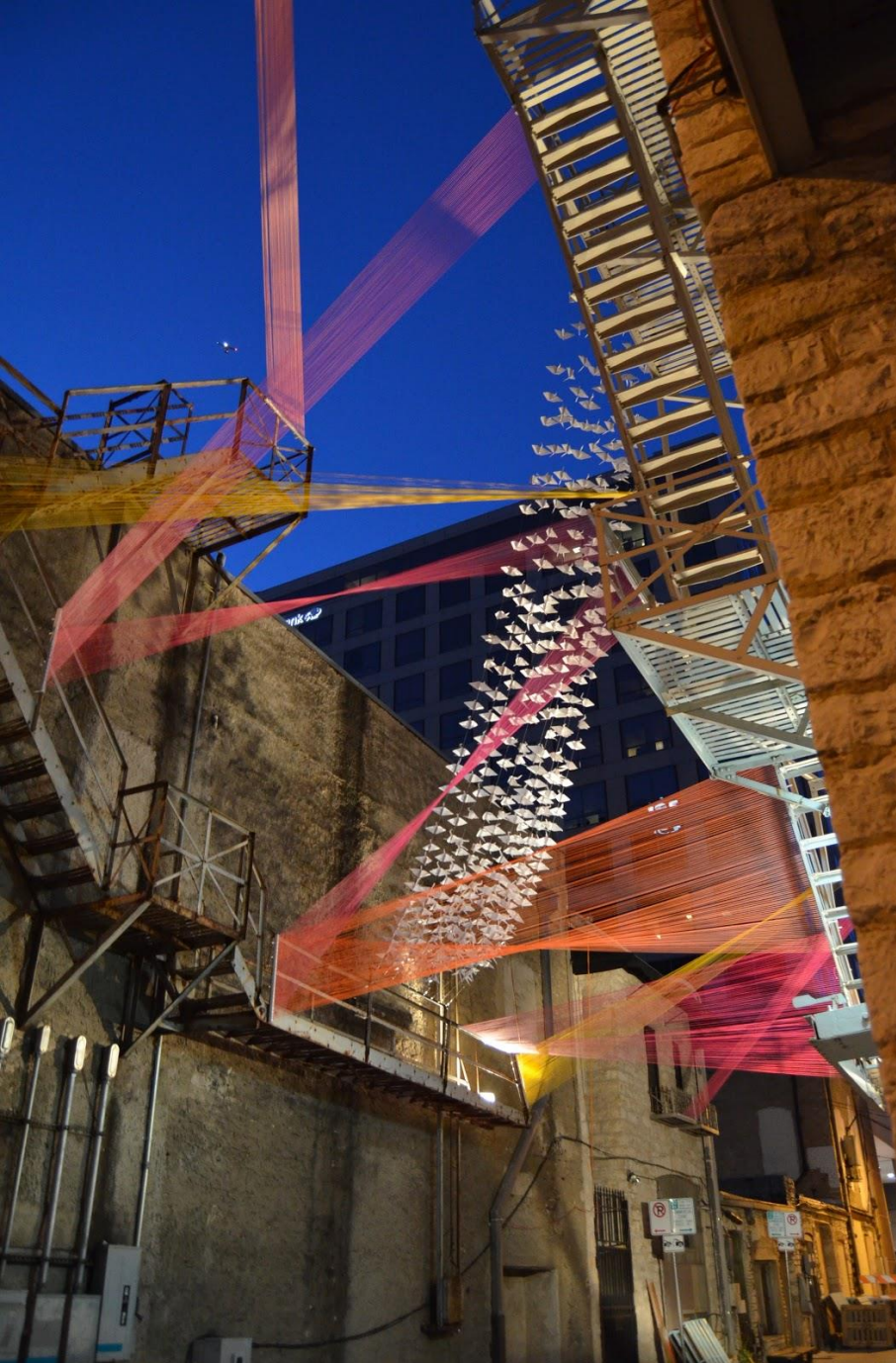
How might Palmer Street become more...

- Fun
- Inviting
- Active
- Social
- Playful
- Thought-provoking
- Beautiful
- Comfortable



© North News & Pictures Ltd















Discussion

- What kind of experience would you like to create on Palmer Street?
- What possibilities are most exciting to you?
- Are there features that appeal to you?

What would you like to see on Palmer Street?



Colorful canopy (from local artist)

More colors

Plants or other greenery

fun lights

Better lighting
Market or performance space
Clearer sense of safety with vehicles

Color and more light.

Color, lights, plants

pop up used book sales (not sure how the Coop would take that)
move the Saturday Farmers' market to this location

I like the piano! And the string of christmas lights. And the tables. Would not go with the canopy if it is already dim.

tables and chairs, murals

Light show at night: lighting the surrounding walls, maybe telling a story, history of Cambridge?
Day time vendor stalls, maybe vintage items lacking in the area

relaxing places to sit and enjoy Lizzy's ice cream and music from Passims

the lack of light in that space has always been my first impression - 'alley' seems to be the best description - so, lighting or light diffusion materials might help - also keep the 'alley' feeling with 'film noir' artworks.



Next Steps

- Feedback from this meeting will inform the design approach
- City will present conceptual designs at a later community meeting

- **Future updates will be posted to: cambridgema.gov/palmerstreet**
- **Email questions or comments to: dwolf@cambridgema.gov**

Thank You

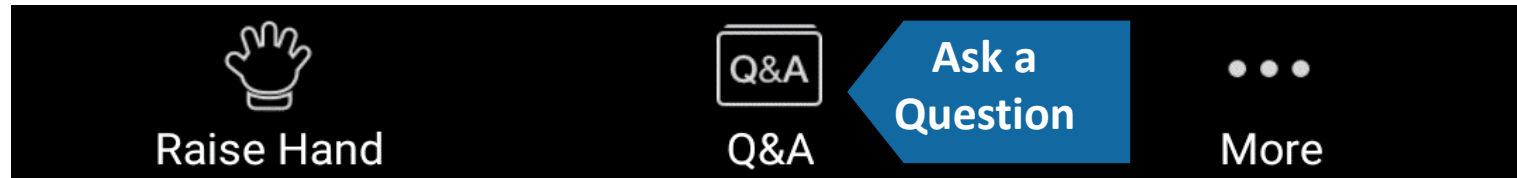


Public comment

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City Updates



Development Project Updates








Ragon Institute, 600-624 Main St

- “The Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard is a unique, Cambridge-based, philanthropy-funded, non-profit organization that is dedicated to the research and development of vaccines and cures for the most vexing infectious diseases confronting humankind today, including COVID 19.”
- Established in 2009, the Institute is currently housed at 400 Technology Square.
- Proposed project is ~70,000 SF of office and lab space on 1.5-acre site.
- MIT owns the site (currently vacant), will lease it long-term to the Ragon Institute.



LEGEND

-  Pedestrian Desire Lines
-  Kendall / MIT Station
-  Nearest Zipcar Location
-  Nearest Blue Bike Location
-  Future Construction

10-MINUTE WALK

5-MINUTE WALK

Proposed
new crosswalk

TO CENTRAL SQUARE

PORTLAND STREET

GALILEO GALILEI WAY

BROADWAY

MAIN STREET

ALBANY STREET

VASSAR STREET

AMES STREET

SITE

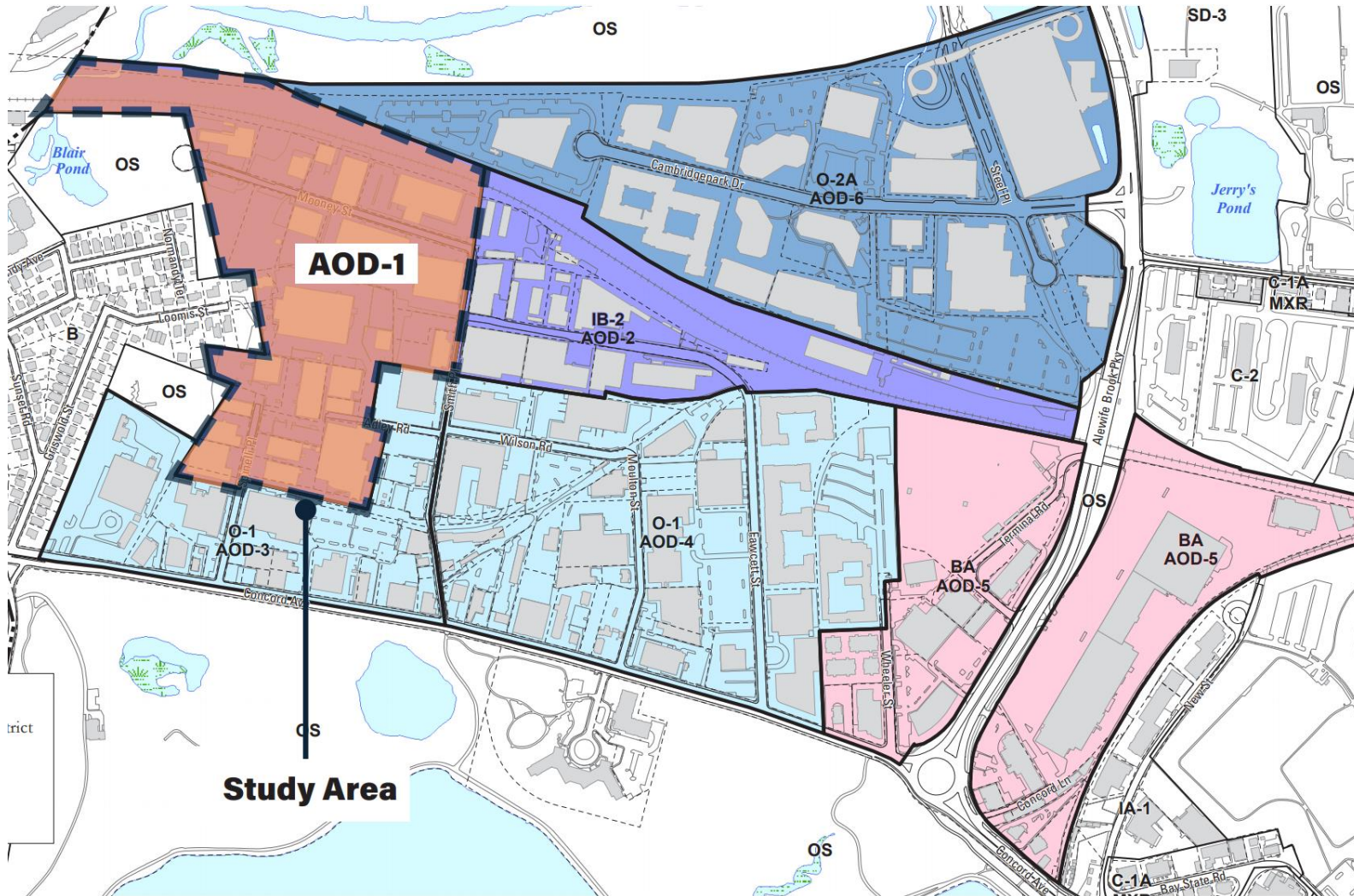




Volpe

- Final application materials posted

Alewife Quadrangle Northwest District (AOD-1)

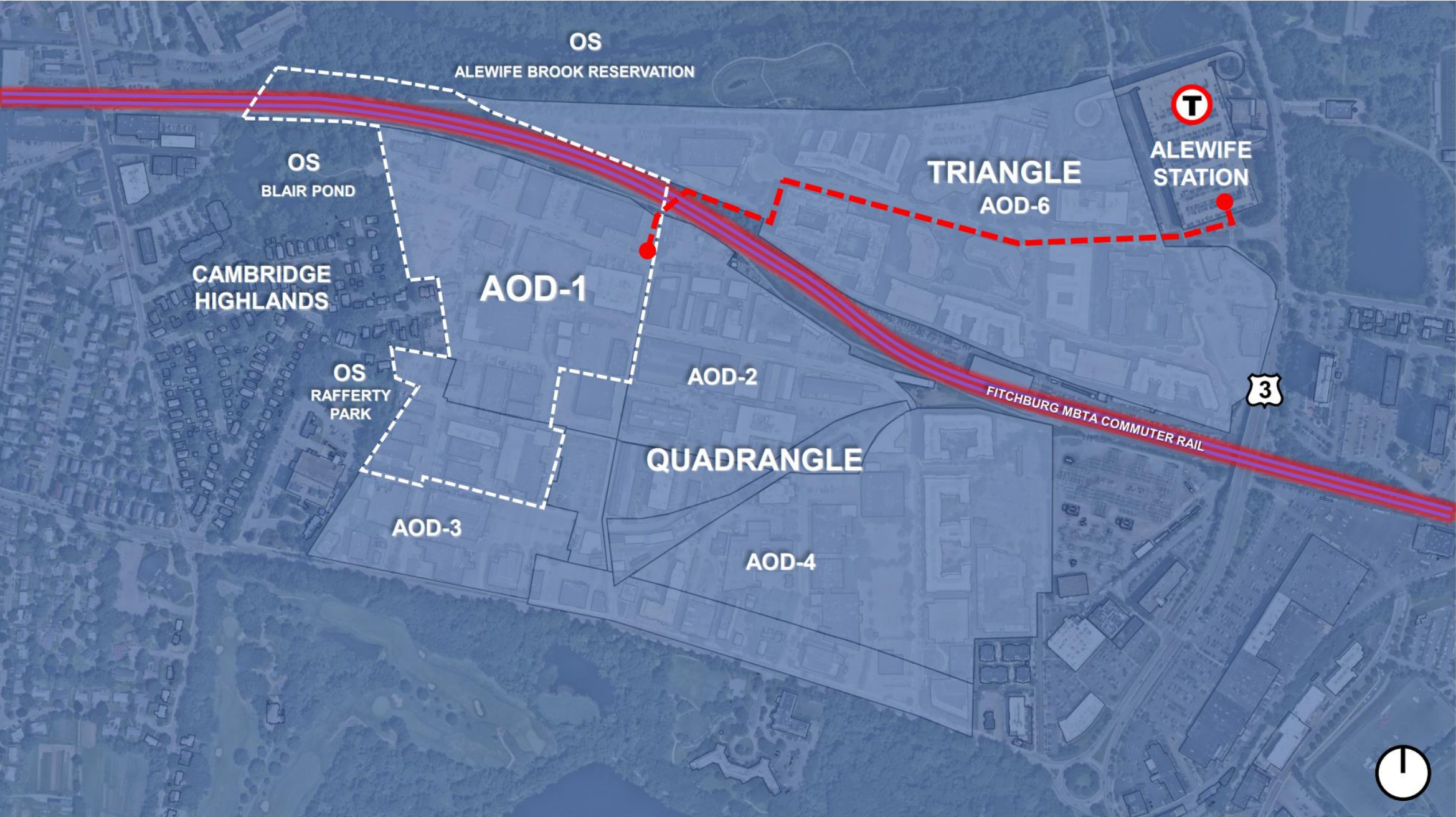


Overview of AOD-1 Site + Zoning Petition

Zoning Petition:

- On February 28, 2020, a zoning petition was submitted by over 10 registered Cambridge voters to amend zoning provisions in the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay District (AOD-1).
- The petition is supported by Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Development Co., Inc. (CC&F), a major owner of approximately 16.3 acres of property in the district affected by the zoning change.
- Among other changes, the petition would:
 - increase the maximum allowable height of any non-residential building from the existing fifty-five (55) feet to eighty-five (85) feet by special permit from the Planning Board;
 - allow an incremental increase in FAR of 0.25 for any lot in exchange for construction of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing of the railroad tracks to the Alewife Triangle Overlay District (AOD-6), which is allowable in current zoning if the bridge connects from AOD-2 or AOD-4 but not from AOD-1;
 - authorize the above FAR increase for “contribution of funding towards the construction, operation, maintenance, or repair of this bridge connection” in addition to construction and conveyance of property interests for the bridge construction; and
 - exclude light industrial use(s) and/or consumer-facing business(es) on the ground floor of a non-residential building from the Gross Floor Area (GFA) calculations.

SITE ORIENTATION AOD-1 (ALEWIFE OVERLAY DISTRICT-1)



AOD-1

ALEWIFE

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEC 8th 2020



Cabot, Cabot & Forbes

SASAKI





Committee Officer Elections

- Chair
 - Helps set Committee agendas, takes a leadership role on the Committee
- Vice-Chair
 - Helps set Committee agendas, supports and fills in for the Chair
- Secretary
 - Helps set Committee agendas, takes meeting notes



Committee Work

- Subcommittee check-in
- 2021 Work Plan

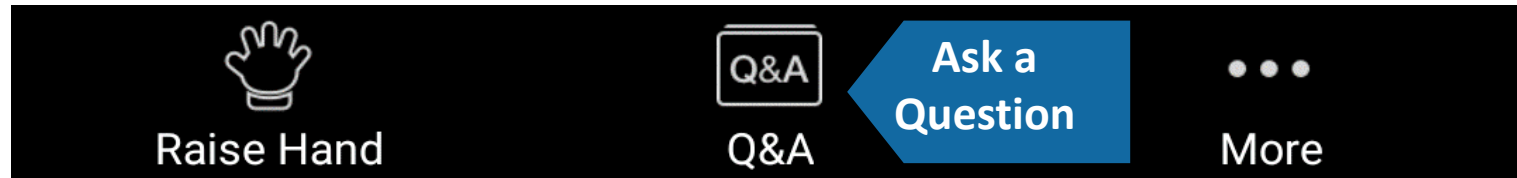


Public comment

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Upcoming Meetings

- March Joint Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 5:30 – 7:30
 - Development/City Projects: Ragon, Volpe, Huron Ave
- March Pedestrian Committee – Thursday, March 25, 6 – 8
 - Transportation Data
- April Joint Meeting – Date TBD
 - DPW 5-Year Plan & Green Infrastructure
- April Pedestrian Committee – Thursday, April 29, 6 – 8
 - Lighting → Specific questions/concerns for City Electrician?



Other Announcements



Thank You